

the Chief of the Air Staff shall be final.

Remedy of aggrieved officers

27. Any officer who deems himself wronged by his commanding officer or any superior officer and who on due application made to his commanding officer does not receive the redress to which he considers himself entitled, may complain to the Central Government in such manner as may from time to time be specified by the proper authority.

Declaration of Main Central Road as National Highway in Kerala

*108. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to declare the Main Central Road from Angamalli to Trivandrum in Kerala as a National Highway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Aircraft Accidents in Indian Air Force

*109. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of aircraft accidents in the Indian Air Force is the highest in the world;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the comparative figures of such accidents during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) : As information about the number of accidents and the accident rates in the Air Force's of various countries is not available, it is not possible to draw any comparison with the rate of accidents in the Indian Air Force. As such, there is no basis to conclude that the accident rate in the IAF is the highest in the world.

[*English*]

Restructuring Export Policy

*110 SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the export policy to provide a major thrust to exports:

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) to what extent the exports are expected to increase as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, on the 4th July, 1991 the Government has brought about major structural changes in

EXIM policy keeping in view the following objectives :—

- (a) the reduction or elimination of licensing and bring about greater automaticity,
- (b) export promotion,
- (c) optimal import compression,

The main features of the changes are as under :—

- (1) **Replenishment** licensing scheme (REP) has now become the principal instrument for export-related imports. It will now be called "Exim Scrip" and can be freely traded;
- (2) All exports have a uniform REP rate of 30% of the freight on board (FOB) value from the present rates ranging from 5 to 20 per cent of the FOB value. Special rates for gems and jewellery, certain metal-based handicrafts and newspapers/journals/periodicals will, however, continue.
- (3) The new REP scheme gives maximum incentive to exporters whose import intensity is low like agricultural exports.
- (4) **Advance Licensing Scheme**, under which export linked imports are permitted, is being further simplified and strengthened. The REP rate for Advance license exports has been increased from 10% of the net foreign exchange (NFF) to 20% of the NFE.

(c) As a result of revamping of Import-Export Policy, exports are likely to increase.

[Translation]

Review of Textile Policy

*111. **SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA** : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the textile policy to tackle the problems of handloom, powerloom, synthetic mills, farmers, labourers and management at various level,

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) whether the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce despite record cotton yield;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard,

(e) whether the Government have studied the report of Abid Hussain Committee; and

(f) if so, the recommendations of the Committee accepted by the Government and the time by which these are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (f) Government have appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Abid Hussain to review the progress of implementation of the Textile Policy, 1985. The Committee submitted its report in January, 1990. The recommendations of the Abid Hussain's Committee Report are under active consideration of the Government in consultation with State